Washington, D. C.,
April 14th, 1952.

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MINUTES OF DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE ST. LAWRENCE PROJECT HELD AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON APRIL 14th.

At the meeting in the President's office at 12:30 p.m. on April 14th there were present from the Administration:

President Truman,
Mr. Dean Acheson, Secretary of State
Mr. David Bruce, Under Secretary of State
Mr. Stanley Woodward, U.S. Ambassador to Canada, and
Mr. Charles Murphy, Special Counsel to the President

The Canadian representatives were:

The Hon. L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs,
The Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport, and
Mr. Hume Wrong, Ambassador to the United States.

The President opened the meeting by saying that there had been more than enough delay in getting the St. Lawrence Project under way and that he was anxious that it should be started as soon as possible. There was, however, some prospect that the Senate would act on the 1941 Agreement; the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was to consider the matter on April 22nd and it was expected that the Committee would report the joint resolution endorsing the Agreement. He therefore asked that the Canadian Government should consent to wait for thirty days in order to determine what action the Senate might take, adding that this was the last time on which he would make a suggestion for a further delay.

He asked Mr. Acheson whether he had any comment to make on his opening remarks. Mr. Acheson said that he fully agreed that the patience shown by the Canadian Government was extraordinary, and he supported the views expressed by the President.

Mr. Pearson welcomed the remarks made by the President. The Canadian Government, however, was anxious that there should be no delay in taking the first step necessary to clear the way for the construction of the waterway by Canada, which was agreement on a reference to the International Joint Commission of the power phases of the project by both governments. Such a reference as soon as possible would not prejudice the joint project if Congress were to act before the end of the session.

Mr. Truman said that he had no objection whatever to the two governments proceeding to a reference to the International Joint Commission without any delay. He asked Mr. Murphy to speak on the problem of designating a U.S. agency to share in the construction of the power facilities.

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